

1 **In the Claims:**

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3 **1—20. (Cancelled)**

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5 **21. (Previously Presented)** A method of managing a write request from a first
6 source node in a storage network to a first storage node in the storage network,
7 comprising:

8 if there is an available communication path between the first source node
9 and the first storage node, then executing the write request from the first source
10 node to the first storage node using the available communication path;

11 if there is not an available communication path between the first source
12 node and the first storage node, then:

13 transmitting the write request from the first source node to a second
14 source node if there is an available communication path from the first source node
15 to the second source node and an available communication path from the second
16 source node to the first storage node.
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1 **22. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 21, wherein if executing the
2 write request from the first source node to the first storage node generates a
3 timeout failure, then:

4 transmitting the write request from the first source node to a second source
5 node if there is an available communication path from the first source node to the
6 second source node and an available communication path from the second source
7 node to the first storage node.
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10 **23. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 22, wherein transmitting the
11 write request from the first source node to the second source node comprises
12 encapsulating the write request.
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14 **24. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 21, further comprising
15 executing the write request from the second source node to the first storage node.
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18 **25. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 24, further comprising
19 transmitting an error message from the second source node to the first source node
20 if the write request fails.
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1 **26. (Currently Amended)** A method of managing a write request from a first
2 source node in a storage network to a mirrored storage data set having a first
3 storage node and a second storage node in the storage network, comprising:

4 if there are available communication paths between the first source node
5 and both the first storage node and the second storage node in the mirrored data
6 set, then executing the write request from the first source node to both the first
7 storage node and the second storage node using the available communication
8 paths;

9 if there are no available communication paths between the first source node
10 and the first storage node and the second storage node, then invoking an error
11 routine;

12 if there is an available communication path between the first source node
13 and only one of the first storage node and the second storage node in the mirrored
14 data set, then:
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16 executing the write request from the first ~~storage-source~~ node to the
17 first storage node or the second storage node via the available communication
18 path;

19 transmitting the write request from the first source node to a second
20 source node if there is an available communication path from the first source node
21 to the second source node and an available communication path from the second
22 source node to the first storage node or the second storage node.
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1 **27. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 26, wherein if executing the
2 write request from the first source node to the first storage node generates a
3 timeout failure, then:

4 transmitting the write request from the first source node to a second source
5 node if there is an available communication path from the first source node to the
6 second source node and an available communication path from the second source
7 node to the first storage node.
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10 **28. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 27, further comprising
11 executing the write request from the second source node to the first storage node.
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13 **29. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 26, wherein if executing the
14 write request from the first source node to the second storage node generates a
15 timeout failure, then:

16 transmitting the write request from the first source node to a second source
17 node if there is an available communication path from the first source node to the
18 second source node and an available communication path from the second source
19 node to the second storage node.
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22 **30. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 29, further comprising
23 executing the write request from the second source node to the first storage node.
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1 **31. (Previously Presented)** A method of performing a surrogate write
2 operation in a storage network, comprising:

3 receiving, at a second source node, a query from a first source node,
4 wherein the query identifies a target node in the storage network for the surrogate
5 write operation;

6 transmitting a reply to the first source node, wherein the reply includes a
7 signal component indicating there is an available communication path between the
8 second source node and the target node; and
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10 relaying write operations from the first source node to the target node.
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12 **32. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 31, further comprising
13 determining whether there is an available communication path between the second
14 source node and the target node.
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17 **33. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 31, wherein relaying write
18 operations from the source node to the target node comprises:

19 receiving an encapsulated write request from the first source node;

20 de-encapsulating the encapsulated write request; and

21 executing the write request from the second node to the target node.
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1 **34. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 31, further comprising
2 transmitting a failure signal from the second source node to the first source node if
3 the write request from the second source node to the target node fails.

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5 **35. (Previously Presented)** One or more computer-readable media comprising
6 logic instructions for managing a write request from a first source node in a
7 storage network to a first storage node in the storage network, that, when executed
8 by a processor, cause the processor to perform operations comprising:

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10 executing a write request from the first source node to the first storage node
11 using an available communication path between the first source node and the first
12 storage node;

13 if there is not an available communication path between the first source
14 node and the first storage node, then:

15 transmitting the write request from the first source node to a second
16 source node if there is an available communication path from the first source node
17 to the second source node and an available communication path from the second
18 source node to the first storage node.
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1 **36. (Previously Presented)** The one or more computer-readable media of
2 claim 35, further comprising logic instructions that, when executed by a processor,
3 cause the processor to:

4 determine if executing the write request from the first source node to the
5 first storage node generates a timeout failure, and if so, then to transmit the write
6 request from the first source node to a second source node if there is an available
7 communication path from the first source node to the second source node and an
8 available communication path from the second source node to the first storage
9 node.
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12 **37. (Previously Presented)** The one or more computer-readable media of
13 claim 36, further comprising logic instructions that, when executed by a processor,
14 cause the processor to encapsulate the write request before transmitting the write
15 request from the first source node to the second source node.
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1 **38. (Previously Presented)** One or more computer-readable media comprising
2 logic instructions for performing a surrogate write operation in a storage network
3 that, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform operations
4 comprising:

5 receiving, at a second source node, a query from a first source node,
6 wherein the query identifies a target node in the storage network for the surrogate
7 write operation;

8 transmitting a reply to the first source node, wherein the reply includes a
9 signal component indicating there is an available communication path between the
10 second source node and the target node; and
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12 relaying write operations from the first source node to the target node.
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14 **39. (Previously Presented)** The one or more computer-readable media of
15 claim 38, further comprising logic instructions that, when executed on a processor,
16 cause the processor to determine whether there is an available communication path
17 between the second source node and the target node.
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20 **40. (Previously Presented)** The one or more computer-readable media of
21 claim 38, further comprising logic instructions that, when executed on a processor,
22 cause the processor to perform operations comprising:
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24 receiving an encapsulated write request from the first source node;

25 de-encapsulating the encapsulated write request; and

executing the write request from the second node to the target node.

41. (Previously Presented) The one or more computer-readable media of claim 38, further comprising logic instructions that, when executed on a processor, cause the processor to transmit a failure signal from the second source node to the first source node if the write request from the second source node to the target node fails.